



Assigned Security Responsibility

HIPAA Security ♦ November 2003

Standard Requirement

As part of their administrative safeguards, each covered entity must formally assign a “security official” responsibility for the “development and implementation of the policies and procedures” required by the HIPAA Security Rule. As with the Privacy Rule requirement for a Privacy Officer, DHHS has stated final responsibility for security must rest with a single person: “More than one individual may be given security responsibilities, especially within a large organization; but a single individual must be designated as having the overall final responsibility.” (Final Rule, p8347) A single person may hold responsibility for both HIPAA security and privacy. The number and type of people required to implement an organization’s security policies in a manner consistent with HIPAA will depend on the size and structure of the organization. The actual number and the breakdown of responsibilities could be validated as part of the security management process. Covered entities should document the identities and tasks of all persons responsible for health information security.

No implementation specifications appear under Assigned Security Responsibility.

See also:

45 CFR 164.308(a)(2)

Federal and DoD regulations that support this standard
OMB A-130 App. III